

In the claims: The claims are as follows.

1. (Original) A method for extending the functionality of a message according to a predetermined message format, for use when communicating one or more messages at least in part via a wireless communication system from a sending terminal to a receiving terminal, either of which may be a mobile terminal, the message format providing a user data field, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) determining a number of bits at the end of the user data field to be used to convey extension data;
- b) defining the information to be conveyed by each bit;
- c) inserting extension data into the user data field in the determined number of bits at the end of the user data field;

wherein the extension data includes information indicating instructions associated with displaying the message, thereby providing an extension to the messaging according to the predetermined format that is effective for mobile terminals adapted to interpret the extension data but does not prevent mobile terminals not so adapted from displaying the message without regard for the instructions indicated by the extension data.

2. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the message format is for a message including a picture, and wherein each picture message includes a picture and possibly some associated text, and wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

- a) inserting into the user data field at least some of the text to be associated with the picture; and
- b) inserting at least some of the picture into the user data field after the text.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined message format is the short message service (SMS) picture message format.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein an ordered sequence of SMS picture messages is conveyed as a single message object logically organized into frames, each frame ~~consisting of~~ and conveyed as one or more SMS picture messages, and wherein for frames ~~consisting of~~ only one SMS picture message, the SMS extension data is included after the picture in the only one SMS picture message, but in each frame ~~consisting of~~ multiple SMS picture messages, the SMS extension data is included after the picture in the last SMS picture message of the multiple SMS picture messages making up the frame.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein in case a frame is conveyed by more than one SMS message, the method further comprises the step of inserting SMS message concatenation data into the user data field of each SMS message used to convey the frame so as to indicate the individual SMS messages and their order to be used to convey the frame.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the SMS extension data comprises: a message identifier and also the order number or other identifier of the current frame for use by the receiving terminal in ordering the frames of the multi-frame message.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the SMS extension data further comprises the SMS message number of the SMS message to be used to convey a frame too long to be conveyed by a single SMS message.

8. (Original) An apparatus for sending and receiving a signal conveying a message according to a predetermined message format,

but including information for extending the functionality of messaging according to the predetermined format, for use when communicating one or more messages at least in part via a wireless communication system from a sending terminal to a receiving terminal, either of which may be a mobile terminal, the message format providing a user data field, the apparatus comprising:

- a) means for sending and receiving the signal conveying the message; and
- b) means for inserting extension data into the user data field in the determined number of bits at the end of the user data field;

wherein the extension data includes information indicating instructions associated with displaying the message, thereby providing an extension to the messaging according to the predetermined format that is effective for mobile terminals adapted to interpret the extension data but does not prevent mobile terminals not so adapted from displaying the message without regard for the instructions indicated by the extension data.

9. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 8, wherein the message format is for a message including a picture, wherein each picture message includes some text associated with the picture, and wherein the apparatus further comprises:

- a) means for inserting into the user data field at least some of the text to be associated with the picture; and
- b) means for inserting at least some of the picture into the user data field after the text.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the predetermined message format is the short message service (SMS) picture message format.

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the signal conveys an ordered sequence of SMS picture messages as a single message object logically organized into frames, each frame ~~consisting of and conveyed~~ as one or more SMS picture messages, and wherein for frames ~~consisting of~~ only one SMS picture message, the SMS extension data is included after the picture in the only one SMS picture message, but in each frame ~~consisting of~~ multiple SMS picture messages, the SMS extension data is included after the picture in the last SMS picture message of the multiple SMS picture messages making up the frame.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein in case a frame is conveyed by more than one SMS message, the apparatus further comprises means for inserting SMS message concatenation data into the user data field of each SMS message used to convey the frame so as to indicate the individual SMS messages and their order to be used to convey the frame.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the SMS extension data comprises: a message identifier and also the order number or other identifier of the current frame for use by the receiving terminal in ordering the frames of the multi-frame message.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the SMS extension data further comprises the SMS message number of the SMS message to be used to convey a frame too long to be conveyed by a single SMS message.